

The Driller's Digest

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In This Issue:

Lunchbox Food Safety	1
Promotion of Certification	1
Summary of Enforcement Actions	2
Pump Wiring and Plumbing	2
Well Owners Guide	2
Share Your Pictures	2
Have You Submitted Your Notice of Intent?	3
Passing the Exam	3
Commission Members & Staff	3
Certification Today	3
NC Division of Water Quality- APS	3
NC Department of Health & Human Services	3
JUBILEE in June	4
Commission Meetings	4
Certification Renewal	4

This newsletter is published as a service to certified well contractors and others in the groundwater industry. Suggestions for articles for publication in the newsletter are welcome.

Lunchbox Food Safety

by Terri Ritter, REHS, LSS; Environmental Health Regional Specialist

Pack and Transport Food Safely!

With summer approaching and temperatures rising be sure to keep your food safe: from the refrigerator.....to the lunch box.....to the job site!

Keep cold food cold. Place cold food in a cooler with ice or frozen gel packs. Cold food should be stored at **41°F or below** to prevent bacterial growth. Some foods may be packed while still frozen so that they stay colder longer.

Organize cooler contents. Consider packing beverages in one cooler and perishable foods in another. If you open and reopen your *beverage* cooler to grab another drink, the *perishable foods* won't be exposed to warm outdoor air temperatures.

Keep coolers closed. Once at the job site, limit the number of times the cooler is opened as much as you can. Keep-

ing the cooler closed helps to keep the contents cold longer.

Clean your produce and fruit. Rinse **fresh fruits and vegetables** under running tap water before packing them in the cooler - including those with skins and rinds that are not eaten. Rub **firm-skinned fruits and vegetables** under running tap water or scrub with a clean vegetable brush while rinsing with running tap water. Dry fruits and vegetables with a clean cloth towel or paper towel.

Food safety begins with **proper hand cleaning** even in outdoor settings. Before you begin eating, make sure hands **and** surfaces are clean.

Outdoor Hand Cleaning: If you don't have access to running water, simply use a water jug, some soap, and paper towels. Or, consider using moist disposable towelettes for cleaning your hands.

Utensils and Serving Dishes: Take care to keep all utensils and plates clean when preparing food.

Promotion of Certification

by WCC Staff

To educate the general public about the well contractor certification requirement, and promote certified well contractors and well water protection, the Well Contractor Certification (WCC) staff recently had a booth at the Southern Ideal Home Show in Raleigh.

During this three day event WCC staff spoke with current and future well owners and a few real estate agents. Well Owner Guides were handed out to these contacts to reinforce the need to

hire certified well contractors to construct, repair or abandon wells.

Crystal Lee Pow Jackson from the Occupational & Environmental Epidemiology Section also joined WCC staff at the booth with additional information on some of the constituents that may be tested for when performing water tests on a new or existing well.

If you have an idea for public outreach please contact staff at andrew.morgan@dhhs.nc.gov or joanne.rutkofske@dhhs.nc.gov.

Summary of Civil Penalty Assessments

Penalties for violations of NCGS Chapter 87, Article 7 & 7A vary depending upon the particular facts and circumstances present in each case. Note: only finalized uncontested cases or cases not seeking remission and at the collection stage are included in this list. Payment of fines and corrections of violations may already have occurred.

Brandee Todd Gwaltney

Edgecombe County, NC. Allegations of contracting without the benefit of certification, in violation of 15A NCAC 27. Assessed a civil penalty of two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00).

Effective Date 11/15/16 Case # WCC 03-16

Brandee Todd Gwaltney

Edgecombe County, NC. Allegations of contracting without the benefit of certification, in violation of 15A NCAC 27. Assessed a civil penalty of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00).

Effective Date 12/1/16 Case # WCC 04-16

Pump Wiring and Plumbing

by WCC Staff

Senate Bill 770 became Session Law 2016-113 on July 26, 2016 when the bill was signed by Governor McCrory.

Section 17 (on page 13) of this bill clarifies that certified well contractors can plumb from the well head to the pressure tank and install water pipes and electrical wiring in a single ditch.

The local health department must notify building inspections of the issuance of a well permit as the well permit constitutes authorization for the installation of electrical wiring from the switch to the pump along with installation of water piping from the pressure tank to the well head when installed by a certified well contractor.

The plumbing and electrical installations shall meet all current applicable codes. Well contractors still must call for any electrical and/or plumbing inspections required by the building inspections department. To sum it up, since July 26, 2016:

- 1) Local health department must notify building inspections when a well permit is issued.
- 2) Electrical and/or plumbing permits not required

for certified well contractors as the well permit constitutes authorization.

- 3) Plumbing and/or electrical license not required for certified well contractors working between the well head and pressure tank and/or pump switch.
- 4) Plumbing and electrical installations must meet applicable codes and inspection requests called in.

The new plumbing clarification and permit exemption has been added to the electrical exemption which originally took effect September 18, 2014 as part of Session Law 2014-120 (Senate Bill 734)

If you wish to read or print these bills, visit www.ncleg.net

Well Owners Guide

by WCC Staff

The Well Owners guide is a folder printed with general well information for well owners and has room to store well records and related documents. The Guide is available on request to well contractors and county environmental health departments for distribution to the public.

Pictures of the Guide are posted on www.wellcontractors.nc.gov on the "Publications" page. If you would like to request a copy please email staff at joanne.rutkofske@dhhs.nc.gov or andrew.morgan@dhhs.nc.gov.

Share Your Pictures

By WCC Staff

We are looking for fresh content for the photo wheel on www.wellcontractors.nc.gov. Do you have an electronic photo of North Carolina certified well contractors in action? Want to show off that new drill rig? Or maybe you would like to share a picture of your certification decal on your favorite truck.

Email photos to commission staff at Joanne.Rutkofske@dhhs.nc.gov. Make sure to include a short description of what type of well contractor activity taking place, type of machinery, location, etc. All photos received will be considered for placement on the front page of the NC Well Contractors Certification website.

Help WCC staff make the website fresh, fun and interesting!

Have You Submitted Your Notice of Intent (NOI)?

by WCC Staff

Geothermal drillers- have you been submitting the Notice of Intent for closed loop aqueous and direct expansion systems to the Division of Water Resources (DWR) regional office and the local health department as required in 2C.0200?

Rules 2C .0222(d) and .0223(d) require notification of intent to construct these wells. The NOI is to be submitted two (2) days prior to drilling for single family residential systems and thirty (30) days prior to drilling for all other installations.

Failure to submit the NOI prior to drilling may result in issuance of a Notice of Violation (NOV), a civil penalty assessment and/or a request for disciplinary action.

Please make sure an NOI is submitted to the DWR regional office and the local health department prior to drilling that closed loop geothermal well. Sending one form before drilling can avoid receiving several forms after drilling!

Passing the Exam

By WCC Staff

The well contractors certification exam can be a hard test to pass. Make sure you or your applicant has all the references needed to study. The list of exam references are posted online at www.wellcontractors.nc.gov on the "Get Certified" page. On the same page there are also some sample questions and general test taking tips. Take the time to read the rule books listed and review the sample questions relevant to your level.

Did you know that if an applicant fails the exam they can request a free exam review? The applicant must be eligible to retake the exam (have an active application) and the request must be received within 6 months of the failed exam. Staff will walk through the materials to make sure you have what you need to study and you will have the opportunity to review the questions you missed.

To bring the exam a little closer to home we have also added a new location for our scheduled exams. Starting this year we will hold a scheduled exam in Hickory, NC in October.

North Carolina Well Contractors Certification Commission

1653 Mail Service Center / Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1653

Telephone: (919) 707-5881 Fax: (919) 845-3973

Commission Members

Daniel Ortiz, REHS Chairman -Autryville
Jonathan Dills Vice Chairman -Winston-Salem
Justin Barefoot, NCWC -Newton Grove
David Brown, NCWC -Hamptonville
Douglas McVey, REHS, MS -Hot Springs
Thomas Whitehead, NCWC -Wilmington
William "Billy" Yow, NCWC -Greensboro

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www.wellcontractors.nc.gov

Certification Today

Total number certified.....1113
 Total number of applicants for certification.....45
 Certifications currently suspended.....0

NC Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Division of Water Resources Water Quality Regional Operations Section

deq.nc.gov/contact/regional-offices

Asheville_____828-296-4500
 Fayetteville_____910-433-3300
 Mooresville_____704-663-1699
 Raleigh_____919-791-4200
 Washington_____252-946-6481
 Wilmington_____910-796-7215
 Winston-Salem_____336-776-9800

NC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

Division of Public Health Environmental Health Section

<http://www.deh.enr.state.nc.us>

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Online at www.wellcontractors.nc.gov

JUBILEE in June

by WCC Staff

For 2017 the South Atlantic Jubilee is returning to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

The Jubilee will take place June 10-12 2017 at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center. Courses have been preapproved for NC well contractors for CE credit.

Visit their website at jubileewatershow.com for more details.

Commission Meetings

by WCC Staff

Would you like to attend a meeting of the NC Well Contractors Certification Commission? All commission meetings are open to the public. Come see your representatives in action! Meeting dates and locations are posted online at www.wellcontractors.nc.gov on the "Meetings" page.

Certification Renewal

By WCC Staff

A friendly reminder that certification renewal notices are mailed out in the beginning of May each year. Well contractor certifications expire on June 30, 2017. Well contractors that have not renewed by the June 30 deadline are no longer certified as of July 1.

Supervising or performing well contractor activities after June 30 without certification renewal is a violation of Article 7A (Well Contractors Certification Act) and may subject that individual to a civil penalty assessment.

If you have not received your renewal notice by mid-June contact staff at 919-707-5881.

**If you have ideas for future
Drillers Digest articles please
contact staff at:**

Joanne.Rutkofske@dhhs.nc.gov



Report Uncertified Well Contractors to the local health department or call (919) 707-5882